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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

August 22, 2008

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Block party event draws crowd, crowns Icon champion

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Despite warm temperatures, McChord's Hot Summer Nights and Block Party event Aug. 15 dazzled attendees with live music, a car show, an exciting cardboard boat race and an entertaining finish to Air Mobility Command's Icon singing competition.

Seven teams entered the inaugural cardboard boat race at the base pool, with each getting an hour to design and build a boat that could make it across the pool without sinking, said event coordinator Sheryl Swory, 62nd Force Support Squadron.

"People had fun with it ... it was a good inaugural event," she said.

Awards were handed out for the winning team as well as the Titanic Award, which honored the best sinking.

The block party also served as the backdrop for the three finalists of the AMC Icon contest to square off for a trip to compete at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., on Oct. 23 against contest winners from the other AMC bases across the country.

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Lankford, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, edged out Master Sgt. Marvin Shields, Western Air Defense Sector, and Airman 1st Class Jennifer Boolen, 62nd OSS, to win and earn the chance to represent McChord at Scott AFB.

"Airman Lankford just rocked," Ms. Swory said. "He really has a stage presence ... he's going to do us proud."

Airman Lankford, who'd never entered into a singing competition before being talked into doing Icon by his girlfriend, delivered a strong performance of the Frank Sinatra tune, "Come Fly with Me."

"The song really suits my voice," he said. "People say that's the era of music that's good for my voice."

Dressed in a black suit with a black bowler hat, the Savannah, Ga., native overcame some slight dehydration brought on by the weather and butterflies due to him being slated to perform last to edge Sergeant Shields, who donned an outlandish purple suit and belted out a Prince tune during his turn on stage.

"(He) brings it every time," Airman Lankford said. "He really blew it up."

Airman Lankford said he's excited



Photo by Abner Guzman

Eleven-year-old Annie Antanavage paddles the "Antanavage Express" — constructed from cardboard and duct tape — around a marker Aug. 15 during an inaugural cardboard boat race at the base pool. The boat race was one of the many events that took place as part of the Hot Summer Nights and Block Party event.

at the chance to compete against the other winners in October. He plans on sticking with Sinatra and the song he is already familiar with.

"I've got a good routine down, I just have to keep polishing it," he said. "I'm going to try to represent McChord the best I can."

Housing privatization town halls set

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

In an ongoing effort to inform base housing residents about the design and development of the new housing community on McChord set to start Oct. 1, housing privatization officials will host two town hall-style meetings next week.

The meetings are set for 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the base theater.

The meetings will serve as an opportunity for Equity Residential officials and base housing residents to get together and discuss various details concerning the what, when and where about the housing privatization design and development plan, said Kimberlee Schreiber, the housing privatization managing director for Equity.

"It's a chance for residents to

Housing privatization town halls

**3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Thursday
at the base theater**

come out and meet people and start the transition process," said Cal Lovering, a housing privatization project manager with the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron. "Equity will now be doing everything for them from here on out."

The meetings will cover subjects such as tentative timelines for construction, details of the different phases of the project and the various community events and activities Equity plans on hosting once the neighborhoods are established, Ms. Schreiber said.

"In planning these meetings, we basically got together and said, 'As a base housing resident, what are the topics and questions that are going to be the most important to me?'" she said.

The meetings will also feature sample pictures of new parks, playgrounds and a new community center residents can look forward to seeing in the new development, Ms. Schreiber said.

Early details of the housing plan include demolishing between 580 to 600 on-base housing units and building new homes in their place over the next seven years. The construction standards for the new houses call for larger living space above the minimum requirement, an attached two-car garage, double-wide driveways and covered patios, according to McChord's housing privatization Web site, https://62msg.mcchord.af.mil/62CES/Housing_Privatization/default.aspx.



**Team McChord welcomes
18th Air Force commander
Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott III.**

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY



Hi: 72
Low: 48

SATURDAY



Hi: 79
Low: 49

SUNDAY



Hi: 75
Low: 56

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Countdown to success

Operational Readiness Inspection	430	days
Nuclear Surety Inspection	139	days
Rodeo	332	days

Don't miss it ...

AMC Family Day

AMC Family Day is Aug. 29, and Labor Day is Sept. 1.

Recognition invaluable to mission success at McChord

By
Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing command
chief master sergeant

When was the last time you told your Airmen they're doing a great job? While recognition is often overlooked, it's one of the most important tools every organization has. Recognizing great work reinforces your organization's goals. It sets the example for what you want to see accomplished.

Additionally, prioritizing recognition sets the stage of the work environment. Positive reinforcement is a powerful motivator, and it brings out the talent of every individual. Recognizing your Airmen goes a long way. Not only will they work harder for you, but it becomes motivation for them to continue doing a great job. They feel valued. They feel important, and in turn, will see how important their mission truly is. The next time you tell yourself you don't have the time to put together a

solid package, ask yourself how you can afford not to. It's a powerful tool when used correctly, and it's invaluable to mission accomplishment. Remember to set your Airmen up for success. Tell them what you expect in order to be submitted for an award. Sit them down at least 45 days before the next quarterly awards period. Explain to them what they need to do to be competitive. Give them responsibility, a special job to do and watch them shine! Encourage them to take college

classes or College Level Examination Program and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support tests. Provide them with a list of places to volunteer. Finally, don't be misled into thinking that you can't submit a package for your deployed Airmen. On the contrary, this is one of the best times to submit their packages. Today's Airmen are expeditionary regardless of their career fields, and deployments are the end-product of what they've been trained to do. Deployed or not, our Airmen deserve to be recognized! Hooah.

Knowing your role key when working as part of a team

By
Maj. Will Phillips III
62nd Aerial Port Squadron
commander

It is truly an honor to be a member of Team McChord. This is my second assignment here and I could not be happier. In fact, a year ago when I submitted my Airman Development Plan to the Air Force Personnel Center, my number one location to command was McChord. The reason I wanted to come back to Team McChord was I remembered how much the wing leadership always focused on the importance of teamwork. Whenever you hear any of our senior leadership speak at an event, a constant theme you will hear in their speeches is the importance of

teamwork. Why does wing leadership focus so heavily on the importance of teamwork? To answer this question, first look at the definition of the word team. In Webster's Dictionary, one definition for the word team is, "a number of persons associated together in work or activity." The definition of the word team perfectly describes our wing. Senior leadership throughout the base understands that the only way the wing can accomplish its mission is if we all work together. In order for a group of individuals to transform into a team, each individual must understand the roles they fulfill as being part of their team. As the commander of the 62nd APS, the Airmen and civilians in my squadron have numerous roles they perform to support Team McChord. Those roles range from supporting our numerous deployments to fighting the Global War on Terrorism, cargo processing, aircraft servicing

and operating our passenger terminal. Although the 62nd APS performs these various roles on a daily basis, we also support the wing's Prime Nuclear Airlift Force mission. Our personnel are highly trained, motivated and dedicated to this important function of the aerial port. Whenever the wing has to execute either an exercise or real world PNAF mission, we understand that our role is to ensure that the mission is carefully and thoroughly completed when McChord is called. To ensure the wing never fails this mission, the 62nd APS has to be ready to deliver in support of this critical mission — always. For the wing to continue its motto of Team McChord, it is critical that everybody understands their role they fulfill within the wing. The question you have to ask yourself is do you know what critical roles you perform for the wing for our team to continue to be a success.

The Sharp Airman ...

- Maintains a professional appearance when it comes to tattoos and piercings.**
- Tattoos should not be obscene or advocate any form of discrimination.
 - Tattoos should not exceed one-fourth inch of any exposed body part or be located above the collarbone (visible in an open collar uniform).
 - Airmen with excessive tattoos should maintain complete coverage

Editor's note: The Sharp Airman is a leadership tool designed to reinforce professionalism of all Airmen.

- with uniform items or remove tattoos.
- As for piercings, women are allowed small spherical, conservative round diamond, gold, pearl or silver earrings with any uniform combination.
 - Men are not allowed to wear earrings in uniform or off-duty on a military installation.
 - Attaching, affixing or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue, eye brows, lips or any exposed body part is prohibited at all times.

Professionals of the week

62nd Communications Squadron


Senior Airman Andrew Dowell

Duty title:
Client support administrator

Duty section:
CSA center

Hometown:
Las Vegas, Nev.

Why he's tops:
From the very start of his duty day, Airman Dowell arrives early to depart for customer help tickets, exemplifying "service before self." He also stays behind to allow younger Airmen availability to attend symposiums and special wing events. A real go-getter, Airman Dowell is always the first to volunteer for extra projects and weekend jobs. He also spends much of his day in various work centers executing 551 customer help tickets in support of more than 4,000 personnel. During the air expo, Airman Dowell supported the computer café and troubleshoot wireless internet connectivity for Security Forces and fax machine issues for the Thunderbirds.




Airman 1st Class Nicholas Willoughby

Duty title:
Ground radio maintenance technician

Duty section:
Ground radio maintenance

Hometown:
Tacoma, Wash.

Why he's super:
Fresh out of technical school, Airman Willoughby arrived to McChord during Rodeo 2007. Always exhibiting a "can-do" attitude, he quickly proved his skills by performing a flawless public address setup for the opening ceremony as well as providing a ground-to-air radio link to pilots. After the completion of Rodeo, he found himself in the middle of Unit Compliance Inspection preparation. Undaunted by this, Airman Willoughby stepped up to single-handedly revamp two shop programs that had been neglected due to large turn-over and key personnel deployments.



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD

Courtesy photo



JAPAN — On a recent Presidential Support mission, Pathfinders of the 10th Airlift Squadron here climbed to the summit of Mt. Fuji, Japan. The squadron guidon was proudly unfurled and carried the entire way up and down the mountain. Mt. Fuji is at an elevation of 12,388 feet above sea level. From left: Capt. Virgil Steele, Capt. Eric Peterson, Lt. Col. James Shigekane, 10th AS commander; Senior Airman Levi Dupstadt, Senior Airman Sean Ide and Maj. Corey Simmons.

Courtesy photo



INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey – Senior Airman Sarah Arps, a loadmaster in the 7th Airlift Squadron, aids security forces in training K-9 units during a recent deployment.



PRT proving ingenuity is all it takes to make a difference

By

Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
AFCENT News Team

QALAT, Afghanistan (AFPN) — In a country where the reality is that parents will have to bury one of their children before the age of 5, members of a coalition provincial reconstruction team at Zabul, Afghanistan, are working to reverse this staggering trend.

After two Air Force medical professionals spent some time on the ground in Southeastern Afghanistan, they came to a conclusion — providing clinical medical care for locals was just a band-aid solution for three major issues plaguing the country. So they made the decision to take a step back and think outside of the box for solutions.

Capt. (Dr.) James Arnold and Capt. Tim Harrelson, physician assistant, have been hard at work looking for ways they could step beyond clinic care traditionally provided by PRT medics. The two were determined to find sustainable, cost efficient ways locals could combat the three largest medical killers in the country diarrhea, malnutrition and childbirth complications — information they were provided by the Afghani government.

“Every environment is different; the resources are different; what you can use and what the people will accept is even different,” Captain Harrelson said. “Even if you discover something that has already been done, you have to figure out how to get it accepted here. You have to be able to work with people on a human level. Those were our challenges in the beginning. We realized early that half of our job was going to be to sell the solution.”

Neither of these Airmen ever anticipated they would be involved in a quest to discover feasible solu-

tions to problems like these.

“When I was at physician assistant school I never even considered that I would do anything like this,” Captain Harrelson said. When he volunteered for the deployment, the captain thought he would treat trauma cases, run sick call and deal with a few public health items, which is a more standard deployed medical mission.

“The reality of it is when you get out into your job, you have to look around in the environment to find out what the problems are and decide how you’re going to fix them,” said Captain Harrelson, deployed from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The Airmen found wrapping their arms around these problems was hard.

“When we got here all we could see is what we could not do,” said Doctor Arnold, deployed from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. “We had to learn and accept what we could do and do it to the best of our ability. Once we got to that phase, we took off like a runaway train. It almost got simpler when we took a step back. You can’t solve all of these children’s individual medical problems, but you can tackle very simple things. That is going to impact a lot of people.”

The decision was made early that they needed to create low cost and easy to replicate solutions that would be simple to implement. The primary goal they had going into the process was to provide a means for the Afghani to be self-sufficient, not creating a cycle of dependency on coalition medical care.

Cleaning up the water

The Qalat PRT operates in the poorest region of Afghanistan, an area where most homes are made of mud without electricity and the source of running water often comes from a polluted water well or from a river where people bathe.

Doctor Arnold was determined to



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown

Capt. (Dr.) James Arnold gives a food supplement to the mother of a malnourished Afghan child recently at the Qalat Hospital in Qalat, Afghanistan. Dr. Arnold, along with other members of the Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team, is working with local health officials to combat the main causes of infant mortality such as unsanitary water supplies and malnutrition. Dr. Arnold is a family medicine physician at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

discover a way to provide clean drinking water to the population knowing that doing so would drastically reduce the number of diarrhea patients in hospitals. He began searching the Web for a possible solution in April where he discovered a hypochlorite generator system that would work in this environment. The system uses a probe to convert a water and salt mixture into a chlorinated solution to be bottled and taken home for families to mix into their drinking water to kill bacteria. The system cost approximately \$5 a month per 300 families to maintain.

Finding a simple system that could be cheaply maintained was just the first half of the battle, however; the village elders would have to provide their blessing before it could be successfully introduced to a village. The PRT doctor met with

the village elders to discuss the benefits of the system and provide them a sample, before the system was presented to a hospital in Shajoy a 45 minute drive from Qalat.

“Once we convinced them to taste it, they realized it was a good thing, and they all gave their verbal pledge, which is a big deal,” the doctor said. “They all stood up and agreed that their village and their families would use it.”

This approval provided the PRT the green light to take another step forward, ensuring that the hospital’s electrical wiring could support the system. Doctor Arnold coordinated to have this done, but even with the proper wiring, the hospital is only able to run its power for short periods of time - a fact that will not hinder this system’s operations.



McChord Airmen selected for promotion to E-5

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Air Force officials selected 15,130 of 36,608 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant for a selection rate of 41.33 percent, up 5.46 percent from last year.

The staff sergeant promotion list was released Wednesday morning, and score notices were posted on the virtual Military Personnel Flight and the Air Force Portal later that

afternoon.

One hundred thirty two McChord Airmen were promoted from senior airmen to staff sergeant.

“The promotion opportunity for this year is outstanding,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rusty Nicholson, the enlisted promotion branch chief at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base. “This is a great day for the United States Air Force and a significant event for

the Air Force’s newest group of noncommissioned officers.”

The average staff sergeant selectee score for the 07E5 staff sergeant test cycle was 270.71 points, based on the following:

- 131.72 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 55.99 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 54.33 Specialty Knowledge Test
- 2.15 Time in Grade

- 4.72 Time in Service
 - 0.85 Decorations
- There are 4,894 enlisted Airmen who will have yet to take the Weighted Airmen Promotion System test, primarily due to deployment, Chief Nicholson said.

“Upon their return, they will be provided the 60-day study time prior to testing and then automatically be considered via the monthly supplemental process.”

- **Staff Sgt. Ayham Baba,** 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Paul Brunson,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Jacob Dillard,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Fite,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Joshua Goss,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Dean Hall,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hansen,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Jarvis Johnson,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Little,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Mario Manago,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Jonathon May,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Nicholas Miano,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Nipper,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Gary Steffensen,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Tristan Walder,** 62nd APS
- **Staff Sgt. Steven Arrowood,** 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Brian Boeshart,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Remington Finney,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Chris Hawkinsjones,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Aaron Henry,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Darnell Howard,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Davin Kobashigawa,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Timothy Macfarlane,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Sheffey Martin,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Jeffrey McConnell,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Timothy McKenna,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Miller,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Jeremy Nalley,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Lucas O’Neill,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. William Peabody,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Daniel Peveto,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Jason Rich,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Douglas Riley,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Kristopher Savell,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Shaw,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Justin Stinnette,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Robert Tingle,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Robert Turley,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Mitchell Vines,** 62nd AMXS
- **Staff Sgt. Stacie Sundberg,**



- 62nd Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Jason Flynn,** 4th Airlift Squadron
 - **Staff Sgt. Michael Hart,** 4th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Jeremy Jennings,** 4th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Thomas Johnson,** 4th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. William Morgan,** 4th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Timothy Valdez,** 4th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Sara Arps,** 7th Airlift Squadron
 - **Staff Sgt. Christopher Aversa,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Logan Castle,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Marie Gamache,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Alexander Osborn,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Jon Polka,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. William Welborn,** 7th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Brandon Hower,** 8th Airlift Squadron
 - **Staff Sgt. Daniel Isaacson,** 8th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Christopher Charlton,** 10th Airlift Squadron
 - **Staff Sgt. Adam Hardy,** 10th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Richard Hart,** 10th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Rica Sanchez,** 10th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Zachary Smith,** 10th AS
 - **Staff Sgt. Nathan Beam,** 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron
 - **Staff Sgt. Darryl Brown,** 62nd CES
 - **Staff Sgt. Donnie Davis,** 62nd CES
 - **Staff Sgt. Manuel Garcia,** 62nd CES
 - **Staff Sgt. Christopher Gautier,** 62nd CES
 - **Staff Sgt. Ivan Lalicán,** 62nd CES
 - **Staff Sgt. Kyle McKay,** 62nd CES

- **Staff Sgt. Starla Olson,** 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. James Taylor,** 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. Mark Walker,** 62nd CES
- **Staff Sgt. David Crespo,** 62nd Communications Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. David Dorr,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Jason Edwards,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Robert Marion,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Eric Struck,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Danielle Ward,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Lisa Wood,** 62nd CS
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Barker,** 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Charles Bowers,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Jerrod Bradley,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Paulino De Avila Diaz,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Vincent Garcia,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Adrian Jensen,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Hyo Oh,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Nicholas Petchell,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Jessy Pitts,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Mori Sakios,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Calvin Tang,** 62nd LRS
- **Staff Sgt. Kenneth Acfalle,** 62nd Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Katherine Kulesza,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Isaac Lampkin,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Larry Moorhead,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Naramore,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Matthew Nowotny,** 62nd MXS

- **Staff Sgt. Gregory Olsen,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Leigh-Ann Ping,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Andrew Snow,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Charles Stanley,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Aindrea Tait,** 62nd MXS
- **Staff Sgt. Alvin Alonzo,** 62nd Medical Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Erika Austin,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Jill Dowd,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. George Harmes,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Melanie Milhorn,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Stacy Neagles,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Mark Paguio,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Kourtney Tapnio,** 62nd MS
- **Staff Sgt. Troy Bame,** 62nd Operations Support Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jesse Doyle,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Sean Draney,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Andrew Drury,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Fallon Farve,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Darren Firth,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Glenn Fontenot,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Joan Sallee,** 62nd OSS
- **Staff Sgt. Dalyn Binford,** 62nd Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Anthony Cabanillas,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Daniel Cagle,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Benjamin Eisenhart,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Gary Ellis,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Latisha Hunt,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Jelsma,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Shannon Jordan,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Hector Laureano,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Bert Leuschen,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Melynda Priessman,** 62nd SFS
- **Staff Sgt. Evan Jones,** 22nd Special Tactics Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Keeler,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. Mason Mathews,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Reiss,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. Justin Seider,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Tyndall,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. Zachary Wahlers,** 22nd STS
- **Staff Sgt. David Yorton,** 22nd STS

Chief McKinley talks about Air Force focus areas

By

Tech. Sgt. Dorian Chapman
17 Training Wing
Public Affairs

GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — “Hold your heads up high,” said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley during his enlisted call in the Louis F. Garland Department of Defense Fire Academy high bay here Aug. 13.

The chief opened his talk by telling Airmen that despite the bumps and bruises the Air Force has taken in the world community lately, “Airmen are doing an incredible job.”

The chief went on to relay some focus areas that newly appointed Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz is targeting in order to enhance operations, polish the service’s reputation and regain any loss of faith by the American people.

The first focus is to reinvigorate the Air Force nuclear enterprise.

According to Chief McKinley, a primary target area must be a commitment to our nuclear weapons programs.

“Focus has drifted away for a period of time,” Chief McKinley said. “Our inspections have declined over the years and so has our focus. We must regain confidence that the U.S. Air Force will safeguard our nation’s nuclear weapons.”

The chief was referencing the unintentional transport of nuclear weapons that occurred in August 2007 and the mistaken shipment of nuclear-capable fuses to Taiwan discovered earlier this year.

Though there is no indication Air Force officials will recreate the Strategic Air Command of yesteryear, Chief McKinley did say he believes the Air Force needs to

incorporate some of the aspects of SAC, including inspections and scrutiny of nuclear weapons security.

“We need to make sure the American public knows we’ve got the stick,” he said.

A second focus is on the commitment to winning the war on terrorism.

“The enemy wants to change our way of life,” Chief McKinley said. “It’s a love and hate relationship: the enemy hates the way we live and we love our freedoms,” he said about the war on terrorism, emphasizing the Air Force is in the fight with the other Services.

“We must adapt and work more closely in the Joint community,” the chief said. “All the services working together make us all more efficient and effective.”

The chief said he does not foresee a victory over terrorism anytime soon and this will be a long war. It is critical for servicemembers and the public to understand the differences between this war and past wars.

“We need to keep the war on terrorism on their 2-yard line, not ours,” he said. “It’s going to be a long war on more than one front,” Chief McKinley said, referencing terrorist activity in locations around the world, not just in Southwest Asia. “We are fighting for our children, our grandchildren and our entire way of life.”

A third focus is on taking care of Airmen and their families

“Only 73 percent of the public graduates high school,” Chief McKinley said, emphasizing that a basic requirement for Air Force enlistment is a high school diploma.

The chief then explained how additional factors such as medical issues continue to diminish the number of potential recruits.



Photo by Senior Airman Kasabryan Musall

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley discusses some of the Air Force focus areas with Airmen at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, during an Airman’s Call on the base recently.

“This leaves about 15 percent of the population for us to recruit from,” Chief McKinley calculated, pointing out that simply qualifying for military service in the Air Force requires being a cut above the rest.

The chief cited superior recruiting programs, basic training, technical schools and First Term Airman Centers as being pivotal to developing Airmen and allowing them to meet their full potential. But according to the chief, it can’t stop there.

Airmen must ensure they continue to emphasize the service’s core values in everything they do. The great things learned in BMT must

remain throughout each Airman’s career. Every Airman must also focus on his or her technical expertise and do the best jobs possible.

A fourth focus is modernizing Air Force equipment.

“The average age of Air Force aircraft is 24 years old,” Chief McKinley said.

“Other countries are stepping up to new technologies” in their aircraft, he said. “We have to focus on the current war, but at the same time plan for the next one.”

Chief McKinley said he does not expect to see additional personnel cuts to pay for the continued modernization of the fleet.



Formal training sustains AF readiness, aids Airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Formal training managers at the Air Force Personnel Center here are committed to ensuring Airmen are provided adequate time to prepare for their formal training classes, and that every Airman who needs to attend has the opportunity. Empty seats due to ‘no shows’ have an impact on the entire Air Force.

Formal training is a key component to improve Airman professional competence and help the Air Force maintain its combat capability in today’s dynamic environment. It includes training at in-resident senior noncommissioned officer and NCO academies as well as all Air Force-level supplemental training such as security, communications or electronics, and instruction at 7-level in-resident schools.

The scheduling process for for-

mal training includes unit, major command and AFPC input, and therefore clear communication of needs and attendance is essential.

“Good communication ensures the Air Force efficiently uses each seat in its formal training program and in doing so prepares Airmen for mission requirements both on station and at deployed locations,” said Chief Master Sgt. Tyrone Austin, education and training branch chief of AFPC’s Personnel Services Directorate. “In addition, it also helps Air Force schools maintain enough seats for future training needs.”

Annual forecasting provides a means to ensure training levels and mission requirements remain compatible. The forecasting process begins at the unit level with unit training managers, supervisors and commanders who collaborate and

project their formal training needs. Units send this information to functional managers at the major command level who in turn pass on the training requests to AFPC formal training managers for scheduling.

“AFPC has the capability to cancel a training line number up to 24 hours prior to a class start date. We’d prefer to have at least 10 duty days advanced notice as this would allow us time to re-advertise the opening to the rest of the career field and find another individual to attend,” said Master Sgt. Tammy Lafferty of the education and training branch.

Air Force schools have averaged about 57,000 seats for formal training over the past three years, said Sergeant Lafferty. During that time ‘no-show’ rates have declined, but they are still at 11.1 percent

for fiscal 2008. The Air Force centralized the scheduling of all formal training at AFPC this past March in an effort to streamline services and make maximum use of resources.

Often times a last-minute cancellation by a scheduled trainee is not communicated to all those involved and results in a ‘no-show’ or empty seat in that training course. Timely communication with AFPC is critical so the schoolhouse can be notified, a replacement person selected if time permits and a ‘no-show’ avoided.

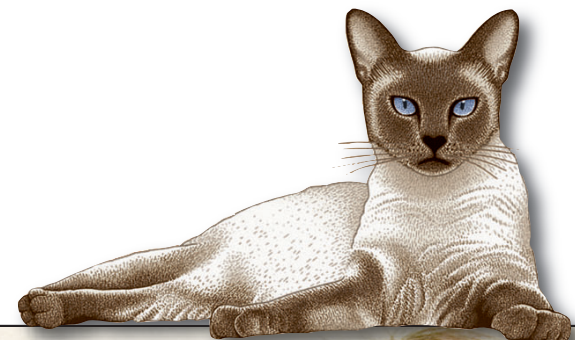
For more information to include viewing projected training listed in the data verification brief, visit the AFPC “Ask” Web site; search for “formal training.” You can also get more information through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.





Bella, a four-month-old Siberian husky, waits patiently as licensed veterinary technician Suzanne Westbrook, 62nd Force Support Squadron, checks her temperature during a routine examination.

McChord Vet Clinic



McChord veterinarian Brian Neir scans Sally, a Yorkshire terrier puppy, to ensure her embedded microchip is working properly.

Pets from DoD installations all over Washington flock to McChord's Veterinarian Clinic for vaccinations, health certificates, routine checkups

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff Writer

Being a living explosives or narcotics detector can take its toll on the body, which is why working military canines receive thorough checkups at the McChord Veterinarian Clinic every six months.

The clinic's primary mission is serving as the caretakers of various units' military working dogs, while also providing Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and their families with quality care for their pets.

The clinic treats between 500 to 800 civilian pets and military working dogs per month, said Staff Sgt. Julie Hicks, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the clinic and an Army Soldier assigned to the 62nd Force Support Squadron.

The clinic is staffed by one civilian veterinarian, a civilian veterinarian technician, a military veterinarian and other Army animal care specialists.

"Sometimes when people come in they're very surprised to see Army folks," Sergeant Hicks said.

The Army is the only service to offer a career field working with animals.

The McChord Veterinarian Clinic is the only veterinarian clinic on a military installation in the state, so it sees animals from all over the state, she said.

The clinic was also recently accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association, as it was evaluated on more than 900 standards established to ensure that patients and clients receive the highest level of care. Only 17 percent of the veterinary practices throughout the United States and Canada have made the commit-

ment to voluntarily participate in the on-site evaluation to ensure standard compliance.

The clinic provides routine updates on vaccinations, treats ear or skin irritations, issues health certificates, gives shots to pets that are relocating and performs microchip insertion.

While it gladly provides the aforementioned services on an appointment-only basis, when the mission requires the clinic's services, employees have to drop what they're doing and attend to the working dogs, said civilian veterinarian Brian Neir, who's worked at the clinic for nearly five years.

"They are the main priority," Dr. Neir said.

Those priorities include giving the dogs checkups and performing blood work on them so they can put up with the rigors of travel and the working environments they face in locations all over the world, he said.

"You have to be extremely cautious and really respect what the dogs do when working with them," Dr. Neir said.

That same level of care transfers over when it comes to serving military members' pets — albeit a tad less serious.

Fort Lewis dependent Cindy Porras and her 11-year-old daughter, Destinee, visited the clinic recently to get their Yorkie puppy Sally a checkup. In addition to the checkup, Sally was also implanted with a microchip device so the family can find her if she runs away.

"We just wanted to find out how to better care for the dog since it's our first one," said Ms. Porras.



Ms. Westbrook examines a stool sample for signs of internal parasites and bacteria.



Fort Lewis dependent Cindy Porras and her daughter Destinee, 11, listen as Dr. Neir examines Sally during a routine examination.



Registration figures up for 2008 AF Marathon

By

Chris McGee
88th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — Registration figures for the 2008 Air Force Marathon continue to outpace the numbers from this time last year and remain on track to break 2007's overall record of more than 6,700 runners.

As of Aug. 4, the total number of runners registered for the 12th annual event stood at 4,550, which compared to 3,305 from the same time last year, is a 38 percent increase.

At that rate, the marathon — scheduled for Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base — is on a trajectory to exceed 9,000 runners. Marathon officials are setting their ambitions even higher than that.

"We are extremely pleased with the numbers rolling in, but we still want to hit the 10,000 mark in 2008," said Molly Loudon, the marathon director.

Registration numbers indicate high interest in the full and half marathon. The latest figures show 1,663 runners registered for the full



Photo by Christy Webb

The 2007 United States Air Force Marathon runners take off from starting line. The annual marathon is held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The 2008 marathon will take place Sept. 20.

marathon, compared to 1,278 the same time last year. Meanwhile, the half marathon has received 1,804 registrants, compared to 1,294 this time a year ago.

A major change from last year's marathon is the phase-out of the four-person relay teams and the introduction of a 10K event. Runners registering for the 10K can do so as individuals

or can run as part of a four-person team.

Each 10K team member will start the race at the same time and will end at the same location. By including a four-person 10K team option in place of the marathon four-person relay, marathon officials sought to eliminate challenges such as team members having to wait for buses or searching for teammates along the marathon course.

The marathon, half marathon and 10K events on Sept. 20 will be limited to 10,000 runners.

For the second straight year, the marathon's 5K event will take place Sept. 19 at nearby Wright State University. This event is limited to 2,000 runners.

The marathon offers options for runners of all levels, and those registering before Aug. 15 will receive a special bonus, Ms. Loudon said.

"The event has a distance for everyone to participate in, from 3.1 miles to 26.2, so go online and register today," Ms. Loudon said. "As an added feature, runners registering before Aug. 15 will have their first name placed on their bib so spectators along the route in all the races can encourage the runner by name to keep going."

For more information or to register for the marathon, visit www.usafmarathon.com.



Career enlisted aviator positions open for retraining

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force still has openings for first term Airmen to retrain into the flight engineer and flight attendant specialties and other career enlisted aviator positions.

In addition to the FTA openings, staff and technical sergeants required to retrain under the Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program may apply for

boom operator, flight engineer, loadmaster, airborne mission systems, airborne battle management, and aerial gunner positions.

“Every open position is an opportunity for Airmen to volunteer to meet a critical need of the Air Force,” said Master Sgt. Bill Bergin, the Pentagon’s career enlisted aviator in-service recruiter. “We have incredibly tal-

ented people looking for new challenges, becoming an enlisted aviator is a good match for some of them.”

The official release of the fiscal 2009 NCORP retraining objectives is on the retraining advisory located in the virtual Military Personnel Flight. To view the retraining advisory, log into the vMPF and click on the “request retraining” link.

Descriptions of each of the enlisted aviation career fields and a retraining tutorial are also located on the Career Enlisted Aviator Recruiting and Retention Community of Practice at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/cea>.

For more information, interested Airmen can contact their military personnel flight or call DSN 227-1717 or (703) 697-1717.



Airmen help Iraqi pilot earn his wings

By

Staff Sgt. Andrea Thacker
AFCENT Public Affairs — Combined
Air and Space Operations Center

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Dressed in a tan flight suit adorned with the Iraqi flag, an L.A. Dodgers hat and aviator sunglasses, one pilot is helping his country take a step closer to having an independent air force.

With help from U.S. Airmen, Iraqi air force Maj. Thagel took his last training flight prior to being certified as a mission commander, or pilot, in the Iraqi air force July 20.

“The mission with my American instructors was the last step before I can become pilot in command,” said Major Thagel, a 35-year-old Iraqi C-208, or Cessna Caravan, pilot.

Major Thagel is helping lay the foundation for an autonomous Iraqi air force, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Terry Wheeler, 870th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron director of operations and one of Major Thagel’s instructors.

His last training flight took Major Thagel, Colonel Wheeler and an Iraqi mission sensor operator to northern Iraq to gather intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance photos of critical electrical infrastructure.

During the flight, Major Thagel

demonstrated his ability to coordinate air space with air traffic controllers, practice emergency procedures and to perform touch and go landings.

“Our whole focus here is to get them to the point where they can accomplish their missions without U.S. Air Force help,” said Lt. Col. Jean Havens, 870th AEAS commander and Major Thagel’s evaluator on his upgrade check ride. “By training them to become mission commanders, we can step back and let them take control.”

To become a mission commander in Iraqi Squadron Three, the upgradee must meet several requirements. First, he must be checked as a first pilot or co-pilot, requiring the upgradee to process basic knowledge of flying aircraft, radio, checklist and emergency procedures and he must accumulate 100 hours flying as a first pilot.

After these requirements have been met, the Iraqi Squadron commander will recommend the first pilot for upgrade.

“He did very well on his check ride,” Colonel Havens said. “We did a mission and observed 500 electrical towers from Kirkuk to Baghdad. I basically judged how well he did while flying the aircraft while orchestrating the mission.”

Most of the pilots have a basic knowledge of flying, but they haven’t flown in several years, she added.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

An Iraqi pilot walks to an Iraqi C-208 Cessna Caravan for his last training ride with U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Terry Wheeler from the 870th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, recently. Colonel Wheeler is an instructor pilot training Iraqi pilots to fly the C-208 Cessna Caravan. The Caravan is equipped with a surveillance package for intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance work.

Major Thagel learned to fly when he attended the Iraqi Air Force College in 1993.

The Iraqi major explained that during Saddam’s regime, pilots flew old aircraft and were given limited control over their missions.

“The American instructors are helping us fly new aircraft and showing us different operating and training procedures,” said Major Thagel. “They are teaching us how to fly Cessna Caravans with ISR capabilities and how to use these

new systems in order to save our country.”

“The Iraqis here in the Iraqi Squadron Three have the capability to do everything on their own except evaluate their own training; at this point, we’re here to facilitate the training aspect,” Colonel Wheeler said. “The 870th AEAS helps to advise and continue the progress from the training squadron. Our responsibility is huge — we are charged with helping the Iraqi air force become self sustaining.”



Wing hopes to hit QOL Grand Slam

By

Master Sgt. Jeff Loftin
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

Southwest Asia — The 379th Air Expeditionary Wing hopes to bat a thousand with a new campaign to improve quality of life.

The Grand Slam Campaign is a new initiative designed to add life to current facilities until new ones can be built.

"This campaign is about the quality of life for the Airmen stationed here and those who pass through here on their way to the area of responsibility," said Col. John Lohr, 379 Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander. "But its more than that - it's also about the safety and security of everyone on this base. The new facilities and renovation of the older facilities will focus on improving living conditions as well as eliminating existing



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Boquette

Staff Sgt. Ricardo McCall secures a Power Liner 2800 as Senior Airman Chris Gautier, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, pulls the starter cord and Airman 1st Class Shane Harding grabs a paint can recently.

hazards."

The campaign will use available resources and manpower to improve quality of life through various reno-

vation and construction projects.

"We're transitioning from an expeditionary to an enduring base in a fiscally restrained environment," said

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Schwiesow, wing command chief. "We can't get to enduring overnight. While we're getting new facilities on line, we have to maintain the current facilities until the permanent ones are ready. This campaign is about what we can do locally with the personnel we have assigned. They're small, but meaningful projects."

Since the 379 AEW hoped to have similar success in multiple areas, the campaign was divided into "innings."

"We wanted to assemble the projects into a sort of lineup," said the chief. "We want to start knocking out as many of these as we can and make some progress in maintaining our overall living accommodations. Although we identify nine innings in the overall plan, these are not nine separate phases to be done in building-block fashion. They will all be running simultaneously."

—— See GRAND SLAM, Page 18



FEATURE

Spotlight story

From GRAND SLAM, Page 17 —

The first inning of the campaign will be to get the word out to Airmen about improvement efforts.

The second inning starts this week with a fence line to fence line base clean up dubbed "Clean Sweep." Thirty-member teams will canvass the base picking up trash and debris left over from previous phases of the base's development. Personnel from the wing will also be responsible for cleaning up within 75 feet of their work centers.

"We need to set a baseline as far as what we want this place to look like," said Chief Schwiesow. "If we get it cleaned up right from the start, that becomes our baseline."

The third inning is the "Grand Slam Cadillac Plan." As a part of the plan, all the wing's portable restrooms and shower facilities, known as cadillacs, have been ranked from worst to best. Members of the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will renovate them in that order. The plan calls for five of the current facilities to be renovated and three new permanent ones to be open by Dec. 25.

"We want to take care of our combat warriors by providing a nice clean area for them to take care of their hygiene needs," said the chief. "Once the new concrete facilities come on line we'll be converting the old cadillacs into laundry rooms. The laundry facilities would be available 24/7 with no three-day wait. Many people have asked for that."

Until then, wing units with the most personnel using each existing cadillac have taken over as facility owners.

"By putting specific units in charge of specific buildings and areas, we hope to instill a sense of pride in ownership which will become the standard as the 379 AEW transitions from expeditionary to enduring," said Colonel Lohr.

In the fourth inning, wing leadership also hopes to instill pride of ownership in the temporary homes in Coalition Compound. The "Dormitory Dugout Refurbishment" prioritizes the dorms from worst to best, and calls for renovation in that order.

"The facilities were designed for a five-year lifespan," said Chief Schwiesow. "We've been operating

them for seven years now. They've outlived their lifecycle, but we need to extend the service life until the permanent facilities come on line. We want to give people a safe and comfortable home away from home."

The fifth inning of the Grand Slam Campaign is to develop a sense of neighborhoods on the base. Base members will be given the opportunity to name the installation's streets. Streets can be named after events in unit history, campaigns, important military members, etc. Anyone can participate in the naming process and suggestions should be submitted appropriately through the chain of command.

"Street names help us navigate, especially when we first arrive," said Lt. Col. Eric Turner, 379 ECES commander. "They help people who need emergency aid to give their location to 911 dispatchers. And, they help provide a sense of community and a tie to our heritage."

The sixth inning calls for the identification and repainting of crosswalks in Coalition Compound.

"The 'You're Safe' inning involves the safety of our warriors," said the chief. "We noticed that the cross-

walks are either unrecognizable or marked at inappropriate locations. The traffic pattern has changed, but some of the crosswalks haven't. We're going to mark the places that make the most sense to have crosswalks and repaint them."

The seventh inning, called "You're Out," will continue the efforts to keep the base clean by making it more convenient for people to put trash where it belongs. Dumpsters will be positioned near each dormitory in the Blatchford-Preston Complex.

The eighth inning will focus on security of the BPC dormitories.

"In the future there will be a gate opening up on the east side of BPC," said the chief. "That is where the main traffic for the base will be coming through. With the increased traffic we want to make sure we limit the access to the dormitories to only those who reside there."

Locks will be upgraded so each resident's room key will open the dormitory's main doors and all its common areas.

The final inning of the campaign will be a "Louisville Slugger Ribbon Cutting Ceremony."



Airmen summer soiree

The Rising Four will host an E-1 to E-4 Airmen appreciation event at 4 p.m. Thursday in Ginko Park, located in base housing. Food and refreshments will be provided. Slide down our 100 foot slip and slide, play volleyball or horseshoes, then dunk your first sergeant in the dunk tank. For more information, contact Airman 1st Class Ashley Walsh at 614-787-2321.

ROTC opportunity

The Scholarships for Outstanding Airman to Reserve Officers Training Corps offers active duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission while completing their bachelor's degree as an Air Force ROTC cadet. Those selected will separate from the active duty Air Force, join an Air Force ROTC detachment and become a full-time college student. Upon graduation and completion of the program, they will be commissioned as a second lieutenant and will then be returned to active duty (typically within 60 days of commissioning) for at least four years. Further information and

forms are available at the following website: <http://www.af oats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/SOAR.asp>. For more information, contact the McChord Education and Training Center at 982-5695.

Fitness center, annex expanded hours

The Fitness Center and Fitness Center Annex are now offering expanded hours of operation. The Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to midnight and weekends and holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Fitness Center Annex is open Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and closed weekends and holidays.

Carter Lake open house

Carter Lake Elementary will host an open house from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 2 at Carter Lake. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's new teacher and Paul Douglas, the new principal. The PTA will also be selling a sandwich meal for \$2. Class lists for the new school year will be posted at 4 p.m. Aug. 29 in Room 1 at Carter Lake.



Faith and Worship Programs

**For more information,
call the chapel support center at 982-5556.**

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:

Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.
Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession
5 p.m. Mass
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass
11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
for all ages at the chapel support center
11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one
11 a.m. Contemporary service: Chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Friday: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis chapel

every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 967-6590

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Confession is by appointment only.

Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843 or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.

When working with classified information, keep security in mind at all times! Use approved OPSEC, EMSEC, COMPUSEC and Info Protect facilities and equipment only!

